

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

People, Places and Events

When events occur for the first time or when people achieve new things there is usually popular acclaim to remember the events or the people. There are many memorable "firsts" in Wallsburg, including the following:

The first school house and church building was constructed inside the fort area and Mrs. Lucina M. Boren was the first school teacher. The first school house outside the fort was the home of Martin Ford, and the first regular school building was on the property of George L. Batty. Miss Josephine Wall was teacher in 1859. Teachers who came to these first schools lived in the homes of Jennie Allred, Susan Davis, Amber Ford and Mrs. John Graham.

Some of the first musicians that played for dances were William Bancroft, dulcimer; George Allred, Amber, Martin and Alfred Ford, James Wheeler and William Davis who played the violin, organ and guitar.

Mrs. Polly Mechem was the first doctor in Wallsburg and used herbs as well as faith and prayer in caring for the sick. Mrs. Annie Mechem, wife of John L. Mechem, also was an early doctor in the area. The first irrigation ditches were made by W. J. Boren and William Haws.

The first post office was directed by William E. Nuttall and the mail was carried on horseback and carriage by Dixon Greer. The mail route from Wallsburg was to "String Town" or what was later Harry Watson's farm near Charleston. Other postmasters included S. D. Greer, George Dabbling, George P. Garff, Della Mechem, Orpha Wall and Alice C. Graham. Mail carriers included Abram Penrod, Elijah Davis, Ray Boren, Ellis Boren, Willard Davis, John Wall and Roy V. Loertscher.

The first manufacturing was the production of shingles. Owner of the first shingle mill was William Nuttall. John Parcell, Enoch Richens and Elijah Davis also owned an early mill. There were many good lumber mills and carpenters, including William Ford and Martin Ford Jr., who were especially skilled at manufacturing caskets.

The first piece of machinery brought to Round Valley was a mower and reaper owned by Martin Ford, Sr.

The first shoemakers were W. J. Boren, William Haws and Luke Burdick. Mr. Boren was also a skilled cabinetmaker. Early stores were owned by Dick Camp, James Allred, Jacob Harris and Dixon Greer.

The first saw mill was owned by William Penrod, W. J. Boren and James Wheeler. William G. Nuttall and Daniel Bigelow also owned mills.